

1 December 1971

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Instructions for the U.S. Mission in Saigon --

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"The NSC Staff with the concurrence of the Departments of State and Defense and the CIA requests that the following message be passed to Ambassador Bunker:

"1. Concur your approach contained in [] message of 28 November but suggest the following modifications. In numbered paragraph B-1 we believe you should eliminate the suggestion of including "others" []

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[] Although we do not wish to discourage the prospect of additional releases [] we believe that we have previously committed ourselves to a one for one exchange [] We want to avoid giving any impression that we are changing our position though obviously if they volunteer additional people [] this would be welcomed.

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"2. We consider numbered paragraph B-2 as superfluous, particularly when viewed against the specifics which are contained in paragraph B-3. We also think it is risky in paragraph B-3 to commit ourselves to 13 December without assurance that we could meet that date. We therefore suggest that at this stage we not commit ourselves to specific date for second release.

NSC review completed

DPMO review(s) completed.

State Dept. review completed

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"3. In addition to these changes in the text of your script we wish you to make it unambiguously clear that we

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are willing to discuss his inclusion along the lines contained in numbered paragraph B-3.

"4. You should attempt to get the other side to accept or agree to a communications procedure that is secure, permits full discussion, and can be activated by both sides.

"5. Finally, we still want to get the other side to provide a list of all US and third-country nationals plus GVN officers (if possible) in their custody."

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